THE DERRY COMPLAINT;

OR, THE

HUMBLE PETITION, CASE, and PERSONAL SUFFERINGS

OF THE

Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens

OF

LONDONDERRY

IN

IRELAND.

PRESENTED

To the *Honourable Houſe of Commons*, Aſſembled in the *Parliament* of *ENGLAND*.

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TO THE HONOURABLE HOUSE of COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Humble PETITION of the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of *London-Derry* in *Ireland*.

SHEWETH,

THAT Your Petitioners *Services* and *Sufferings*, on this late Happy Revolution, and the Good Effects thereof, by the Mercy of GOD to these Kingdoms, are not Unknown, *they hope*, to this *Honourable House*, nor as yet Forgotten, (How early the City of *LONDON-DERRY* appeared, and Defended it self to the utmost, and was the only Place in *Protestants* Hands, and for the Present Government, that endured the *Miseries* and *Calamities* of a *SIEGE*, very Fatal to the *Popish* Interest and Measures.)

THAT Your *Petitioners* have been Great *Sufferers* thereby in many Respects, and in a singular manner, not only in the Destruction of the far greatest part of *the Suburbs of that City*, and all Improvements about it (as it still remains) and in the Ruin of many *Houses within the Walls* then laid in Rubish, and the rest greatly shatter'd by the Enemies Bombs and Cannon; but also by their many *Disbursements* for *Securing* and *Fortifying* the Place. Buying and laying *in Arms and Amunition. Raising*, *Paying*, and *Subsisting of Forces. Provisions of all sorts consumed in the Seige by the Garrison. Cloaths and other Necessaries* afforded to the Officers and Soldiers that Defended the City. And *Debts* contracted for the Publick Use and Safety, amounting in all (as on a Mo-

derate Computation appeared) to about *Thirty Thousand Pounds*, besides Private Losses in common with the rest of the Kingdom, and the Charge of Relieving many Thousand *Protestants*, fled thither for Refuge. All which has brought them to (Great *Poverty*) and the said City and Suburbs to a very (Ruinous Condition.)

THAT as they willingly Exposed themselves, and their ALL for the Publick Interest and Service, so they have patiently, these *Eight* Years past, lain under their Losses, supporting themselves with the Hope, That in good time, especially if the Wars were once ended, and the great Affairs of the Kingdom might admit, Such Consideration would be had of them, as they should no longer remain a *Poor Ruinous Spectacle* to all, a *Scorn to their Enemies*, and *Discouragement to others*, as they now are. But should (as the Happy Result of what they have undergone) be made (as they still hope they shall) a lasting Monument of His MAJESTY's Royal Favour and Bounty, if their CASE should then come before Him, Recommended by this *Honourable House*.

YOUR Petitioners therefore Humbly Pray, That this Honourable House *would favourably please to look on them, and take their* Case *and* Sufferings, *and the* Ruinous Condition *of the Poor City of* London-Derry *and its Suburbs, into Consideration, and so to lay the same before His Sacred MAJESTY for His Royal Favour, in order to Your Petitioners Relief in the Kingdom of* Ireland; *as to Your Honours Great Wisdom shall seem meet.*

And Your Petitioners will ever Pray, &c.

THE

The CASE of the CITY of LONDON-DERRY IN IRELAND.

THE City of *London-Derry*, since it was first Built, has been always a Refuge and Defence to the *Protestants* in that Kingdom, and very Fatal to their Enemies, as by many Instances might be shewn. It was remarkably so in that long, Bloody War which began there in the Year 1641. when so many Thousand *Protestants* were barbarously Massacred and Destroy'd by the *Irish* all over that Kingdom; no other Place of Note, besides *Dublin*, in all *Ireland*, held out for the *Protestants* at that time, of whom it saved many.

IT has been Eminently so again on this late Happy Revolution, as cannot be forgotten; nor of what Importance its Services and Sufferings were to these Kingdoms, and the *Protestant* Interest; That when all lookt Desperate in *Ireland*, the whole Kingdom, the Sword, and all Power in *Popish* Hands, the *Protestants* all disarm'd and discourag'd, and a General Massacree of them *all greatly fear'd, and believ'd very nigh them*, as before in 1641.

London-Derry, tho' in a weak Condition, and ill provided at that time, yet to save what it could in such Danger, was the First Place that appear'd in that Kingdom, laid all at Stake, and gave the First Check to the *Popish* Power there, when it shut up its Gates against them, on the Seventh of *December*, 1688, and stood from thence-forward on its Defence, till the end of the Siege, the last Day of *July*, 1689, about Eight Months together, and near Four of them, in that Memorable Siege, wherein the Great GOD so signally own'd it, in its wonderful *Preservation* and *Defence*

fence against all possible Discouragements, the Charge of all which it bore on its Own Head, which it has sunk under to this day.

IT was Fatal to the *Irish* every way, it broke all their Measures, and ruin'd all their Designs, and so Baffl'd and Consum'd the best of their Troops, as they never after retriev'd it. It stood in the Gap for these Kingdoms, and prevented the coming over of all those *Irish* and *French* Forces, with what had ensued, and made the Reduction of *Ireland* far more easie and cheap, than it could otherwise have been. It kept a Footing in that Kingdom, which had been otherwise quite lost, and saved many *Protestants* that fled thither for Refuge.

Its Losses, Disbursements and Dammage by all this, (besides Personal Sufferings, hardly to be expreſt) has been exceeding great, and of a singular and extraordinary Nature, and amounted (as on a moderate Computation appear'd) to the Sum or Value of about 30000 *l.* Sterling, (the ruin'd Houses by the Siege being about one half thereof) by all which it has been reduc'd to a poor and ruinous Condition, as is still too apparent, and having lain under its Miseries so long, till the Wars are now ended: In hopes of finding then the happy Effects of what it has undergone, Does by its Petition, in the Name of the Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens thereof, to this *Honourable House of Commons*,

PRAY That its Case and Sufferings may be taken into Consideration, and so laid before His Sacred Majesty, for the Petitioners effectual Relief in the Kingdom of *Ireland*, As They in Their Great Wisdoms shall think meet.

The Personal Sufferings in the Siege of London-Derry, *being but generally touch'd in the* Petition *and* Case, *it may not be unfit to take some further View thereof in the Heads that here follow:*

I. THERE was in the *First* place, in that City, a huge multitude of all sorts; Men, Women, and Children, many of them driven or fled in thither, from all parts, for fear of the Enemy, who having

Lost

Loſt or Abandon'd, or been Robb'd of all they had, though they formerly lived well, had nothing left to Subſiſt on, nor any where to Lodge, but were forc'd to ſeek to others (in Diſtreſs alſo themſelves) and to depend on their Benevolence and Charity.

II. WHEN the *Iriſh* Army drew near to Inveſt the City, all the Chief Officers, and Men of Experience in Martial Affairs, went away, and forſook them, and many more with them for *England*, or elſewhere; and all the Forces ſent over at that time with Colonel *Cunningham* and *Richards* for their Relief, return'd ſuddenly from thence without Landing, back again to *England*, all looking on the Caſe of that poor City, and the People therein, as altogether Deſperate and Hopeleſs.

III. WHEN ſo many Thouſands of People, who lived before in great Plenty, (being there crowded and pent up together within thoſe Walls) were in a little time Reduc'd to that *Miſerable Want* as to Eat the Vileſt of Food, Dogs, Cats, Rats, Horſes, Tallow, Tann'd Hides, Starch, and the like; and many Periſhed for lack even of that Miſerable Suſtenance, that could no wiſe obtain it.

IV. WHEN at the ſame time they were Torn aſunder, and Deſtroy'd in every part of the City by the Enemies Bombs and Cannon, Death met them at every Corner, and in their Cloſets and Bed Chambers, they could be no where Secure: Even Water it ſelf could not be had to many without Hazard of Life.

V. WHEN at the ſame time they were ſwept away daily, in great Numbers, by a malignant Feaver, that then Raged among them, occaſion'd from the Baſe Food, and Ill Lodging, Want of Reſt, the Noiſome Stench and Diſmal Sights, Noiſe of Cannon and Cries of the Sick and Wounded, continual Fear of Death or of Famine, or Falling into their Enemies Hands, the daily Loſs of their neareſt Relations and Friends before their Eyes, whom they were not able to help, nor Women to ſupport their poor Infants; and other Miſeries they were under that cannot be expreſs'd, that they Died ſo faſt, at length, as there could

ſcarce

scarce be found room to Inter them, even the Back-sides and Gardens were fill'd up with Graves, and some thrown into Cellars; some whole Families were intirely Extinct, and others from many, brought to a very few, and those in a very Miserable Condition.

VI. When at the same time, to the great Grief and Astonishment of those poor People, they beheld the Supplies and Forces sent over from *England* under the Command of Major-General *Kirk*, for their Relief, lie looking on in their Ships for about Six Weeks together, without ever attempting in the least to Relieve them, though they made all the Signals they could of their being Reduc'd to the very last Extremity, as they truly were at that time, which was greatly Discouraging, and try'd their Patience extreamly.

VII. WHEN at the same time they were daily offered, by the late King, or his Chief Officers there, such Terms and Conditions to Surrender the City, as it could not be thought they would ever have Refus'd; which, notwithstanding all the Miseries they endur'd, and great Danger they were in, and no Appearance of Relief, they Rejected to the last; the Cause they Suffer'd for, and great Encouragements they receiv'd from the Proceedings of the *Parliament* in *England*, and the fatal Consequences like to ensue to these Kingdoms, if they gave up the Place, prevailing with them above all Temptations whatever. When after near Four Months Sufferings in that Miserable Condition, it pleased GOD at length to Deliver them, when the Enemy broke up their Siege. But the Besieged had then nothing left to Return to, or Subsist on. And have, many of them, had but a Sorrowful Time ever since, and if not now Reliev'd, must Despair thereof till they Die.

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VII. WHEN at the ſame time they were daily offered, by the late King, or his Chief Officers there, ſuch Terms and Conditions to Surrender the City, as it could not be thought they would ever have Refus'd; which, notwithſtanding all the Miſeries they endur'd, and great Danger they were in, and no Appearance of Aid, they Rejected to the laſt; the Cauſe they Suffer'd for, and great Encouragements they receiv'd from the Proceedings of the *Parliament* in *England*, and the Fatal Conſequences like to enſue to theſe Kingdoms, if they gave up the Place, prevailing with them above all Temptations whatever. When after near Four Months Sufferings in that Miſerable Condition, it pleaſed GOD at length to Deliver them, when the Enemy broke up their Siege. But the Beſieged had then nothing left to Return to, or Subſiſt on. And have, many of them, had but a Sorrowful Time ever ſince, and if not now Reliev'd, muſt Deſpair thereof till they Die.

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